

April 9, 1974

Senator Waldron, I hope you don't mind we quoting from your paper. There's a group of citizens named to get this thing together. The group named Citizens for Progress through a city service building has incorporated and has hired lobbying heavyweight David Tewes to take its message to the senators. I go over to another column because I don't want to read the whole article but you can get it. No membership dues are being charged, this gentleman said, adding the group is going to solicit funds from community leaders to help pay legal and other fees, whatever those other fees are. The goal is \$5,000. We're most anxious to get LB678 considered favorably by the Legislature as amended, Ebel stated. Then in the final column, and Tewes reported that Omaha Senator David Stahmer has agreed to underline the bill. Someone once made a reference to being a carpenter and how when all the pieces that you put together don't fit something is wrong. Well, it difficult when you hear one shoe drop yesterday and the second shoe dropped by the same individual at the behest of the individual who got him to drop the first shoe. It's difficult to believe there wasn't some kind of cooperation and agreement in advance on this thing. I did not use the word collusion understand. I did not use it, I said cooperation and understand. The heavy-weight was back out there during the recess knocking them dead. I think we ought to consider again what is being attempted by striking this amendment to allow a large bond issue which has the nature of a general obligation bond to be issued without a vote of the people. Lincoln has been after this building, rather Miler & Paine and Brandeis have been after this building for a long time. They've had plenty of time to put it to a vote of the people if they thought the people would go for it. My speculation is that these big business interests know that the people will not support it. This is not a public operation. It's to benefit a few private individuals who are large enough in Lincoln to wield as much authority as certain governmental subdivisions. One individual even suggested that the City Council works for Miller & Paine and Brandeis because Miller & Paine and Brandeis who wanted the parking lot had nobody there to speak for it but the City Council of Lincoln certainly spoke for it. And I'll mention to you at this time that a man whose last name is Denny, while he was at the committee testifying, said he was not opposed to a vote of the people. Lincoln tried, and I'll tell you where I got this information, a reporter from Omaha called me on WOW and said that Lincoln City Council contacted the Omaha City Council to see if they could get them to go along with them on this bill, LB678. The Omaha City Council refused to take a position. I'm opposed to the motion to reconsider.

PRESIDENT: Senator Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: I just want to ask someone a question. It's this. If we bring this bill back for an amendment and then advance it, it has to be engrossed. Isn't it dead? In other words, we'd have to stay here maybe 1:00, 2, 3 hours if we bring this bill back because it has to be engrossed. It would be dead if we adjourned right now, it'd be dead wouldn't it, if we'd bring it back? So what I'm getting at, if we'd bring it back, put this amendment on and readvance, it would be dead if we'd adjourn before it was engrossed, wouldn't it?

PRESIDENT: Senator Simpson.

SENATOR SIMPSON: In answer to Senator Syas, I believe that this bill sets in a unique spot in that it has already been